

his service to the State of Ohio and our nation on the occasion of his retirement.

It is an honor to join the people of Ohio's 7th Congressional District in congratulating General Wayt upon his retirement as Adjutant General for the State of Ohio. Serving as Adjutant General since 2004, General Wayt commanded the Ohio National Guard and was responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operation and management of the readiness, fiscal, personnel, equipment, and real property resources of the Guard.

The Ohio National Guard consists of the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve, and Ohio Naval Militia, totaling more than 17,000 personnel.

A 1975 alumnus of The Ohio State University, General Wayt is a Distinguished Military graduate of the university's Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He then served on active duty as an Air Defense Artillery Officer with the U.S. Army until joining the Ohio Army National Guard in 1980.

As a member of the Ohio Army National Guard, General Wayt has commanded and has held staff officer assignments at all levels. Prior to serving as Ohio's Adjutant General, he served as the Commander for the 145th Regiment and the Ohio Regional Training Institute.

He also served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Operations, Training, and Military Support and as the Joint Chief of Staff for the Joint Force Headquarters for the Ohio National Guard.

General Wayt has led a distinguished career and holds many awards including the Legion of Merit with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and One Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Commendation Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

Ohio's 7th Congressional District has been well served by General Wayt as the district includes the Springfield Air National Guard Base and the Air and Army National Guard Units located at the Rickenbacker International Airport. He has also coordinated efforts in cooperation with the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Defense Supply Center of Columbus. I personally have worked alongside General Wayt as he has been an integral part of supporting our national guard and military facilities across Ohio and our nation.

For his many years of dedication to the State of Ohio and to this nation, I again join the people of Ohio's 7th Congressional District in extending our best wishes upon his retirement and wish him success in all his future endeavors.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTING GIRLS BY PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2103, the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act. This important legislation will ensure a healthy life for young women across the globe by recognizing child marriage as a human rights violation and developing a comprehensive strategy

that will include preventive approaches to ending the harmful practice of child marriage.

Child marriage, also known as "forced marriage" is a common tradition in poor and rural communities. Poverty is a common thread in developing countries that carry this tradition of forced marriages. Limited family resources result in families offering their daughters in marriage with the hope of securing a better future and thus, escaping the trap of poverty. However, millions of girls who marry young are instead stripped of their childhood and deprived of their basic human rights as well as opportunities for education, employment and health. Moreover, they are subjected to extreme poverty, hard labor, domestic violence and maternal health risks that often ultimately lead to their death. In fact, child marriage is the leading cause of death for girls ages 15 to 19 in developing countries.

These facts are troubling and daunting. Nevertheless, we have the resources to change and eradicate this practice by supporting comprehensive policies that will advance the necessary education and health awareness that will cause these communities to question this tradition's consequences. According to the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), an estimated 60 million girls in developing countries, now ages 20 to 24, were married under the age of 18. If present trends continue, more than one hundred million more girls in developing countries will be married as children over the next decade, according to the Population Council. This is a dangerous trend that the world cannot allow to continue or endure.

It is important that the United States support these voiceless young girls and recognize child marriage as a human rights violation. This issue must be addressed, monitored, and prevented. The way of doing this is by passing this bill. I urge all of my colleagues to support vote "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, as my service in Congress and my term as Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure come to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the professional staff of the Committee. These are the dedicated individuals who do the research, the analysis, the drafting, the corrections, the negotiations, and the leg work needed to bring legislation to the Floor of this House and get it enacted into law.

I honor them all for their diligence, tenacity, intelligence, insightfulness, loyalty, and friendship.

David Heymsfeld has served the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for 35 years, as Democratic Staff Director of our Subcommittee on Aviation from 1975 to 1995, and as Democratic Staff Director of the full Committee from 1996 to 2010. He has been the lead staff on legislative and oversight

issues in aviation, and, since 1995, has directed all staff activities of the Full Committee.

His responsibilities have required him to master the policy issues involved, to understand the positions of all interested parties and of government officials, to negotiate solutions, which achieve the Committee's policy objectives, to draft legislation, and to plan strategies for passing legislation. He has carried those responsibilities for major aviation legislation, and, since 1995, he has also played a major role in legislation affecting the Federal programs for highway and transit, rail, Coast Guard, water resources, and public buildings.

Our Director of Communications, Jim Berard, has been the voice of the Democratic side of the Committee for 13 years, and served in my personal office and that of Sen. KENT CONRAD for a decade prior. An award-winning journalist before coming to Capitol Hill, Jim has proven himself to be a master communicator, adept at interpreting complex legislative issues for lay audiences.

Jim has been at the center of nearly every major transportation issue I have faced in the past 23 years, handling inquiries from the media, getting them answers, shaping our message, and delivering that message to the public.

Jim is also an accomplished writer, a published author, an historian, and a humanitarian who spends his free time helping build homes for Habitat for Humanity in Maryland, and the St. Bernard Project in Louisiana.

He has been a trusted Member of my personal and Committee staff, and I am grateful to him for his service.

Mary Kerr's extensive communications and public policy experience, along with her legal education, have made her an invaluable member of my team for the past fifteen years. When I became Chairman in 2007, Mary moved from my personal office, where she had served as Communications Director and Legislative Assistant for eleven years, to become Press Secretary for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. For the past four years, she has served very effectively as the principal spokesperson for four subcommittees: Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation; Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management; Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials; and Water Resources and Environment.

As T&I Committee Press Secretary, Mary has executed all phases of a comprehensive public affairs program to drive the Committee's visibility in the national news and trade media. She has led the way to successfully promote the Committee's priorities, such as protecting the Nation's waters, holding the railroad industry to the highest level of safety, and making comprehensive reforms to prevent future offshore drilling accidents.

Julie Carpenter Lotz has been a part of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff for four years, working as a Communications Assistant in the Committee's Communications Office.

Julie has been a welcome asset to the Committee and to me. In addition to her professional knowledge and abilities, she has been a great resource for me in personally providing unique information on Committee-related issues that aren't ordinarily noticed. I have found this to be a valuable service.

Julie is intelligent, hard-working and extremely competent. Her communication skills,